



NEWS

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Rachel F. Levin 202-208-5634
Margaret Wendy 202-208-4354

**CALIFORNIA YOUTH, 17, TAKES FIRST PRIZE
IN FEDERAL JUNIOR DUCK STAMP DESIGN CONTEST**

Young artists from California, Michigan, and North Dakota took top honors in the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Acting Service Director John Rogers announced today.

Scott Russell, 17, of Mt. Shasta, California, won first place with his acrylic painting of Canada geese. Second place went to Erik Peterson, age 16, of Dearborn Heights, Michigan, for his acrylic painting of buffleheads. An acrylic painting of two mallards by Sam Coleman, 19, of Bismarck, North Dakota, took third place in this year's contest.

Russell's winning design will become the 1997-98 Junior Duck Stamp. Junior Duck Stamps are sold by the Federal Duck Stamp Office to stamp collectors and conservationists. All proceeds go toward conservation education.

Modeled after the Service's Federal Duck Stamp art competition, the Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest is part of an innovative educational curriculum that teaches youngsters in grades K-12 about wetlands and waterfowl conservation.

State "Best of Show" winning designs are sent to Washington, DC, where three national winners are chosen by a panel of judges representing art, stamp and wildlife experts from several Federal agencies.

The top three Junior Duck Stamp Contest winners receive a free trip to Washington, DC, along with their art teachers and one of their parents, the following October to be honored at the Federal Duck Stamp Contest. The first-place winner also receives a \$2,500 scholarship award.

"The Junior Duck Stamp Program is a wonderful opportunity for young people to develop a lifelong interest in bird conservation," Rogers said. "The Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest has been successful because it combines science and the arts, allowing youngsters to learn about and enjoy both subjects."

Every state, as well as the District of Columbia, participated in the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Contest during the past year. Creating the Junior Duck Stamp design is a major part of the year-long Junior Duck Stamp curriculum used by educators in their classrooms. Each state sends Junior Duck Stamp design entries to a designated point where they are judged by a group of people active in the local wildlife art or conservation community.

The first Junior Duck Stamp Contest winner from California, Scott Russell comes from artistic roots. His mother, Sherrie Russell Meline, has entered the Federal Duck Stamp Contest numerous times and has won several state duck stamp competitions. She exhibits at art shows that also display Federal Duck Stamp art and recently made a promotional video about painting with actor Gary Burghoff, a former Federal Duck Stamp Contest judge and a painter and stamp collector.

For more information about the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation Program and Design Contest, contact Program Manager Margaret Wendy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Duck Stamp Office, 1849 C Street, NW., Room 2058, Washington, DC 20240; telephone: 202-208-4369.